

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hidekazu HOSHINO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1794

Application No.: 10/584,344

Examiner: M. NELSON

Filed: June 23, 2006

Docket No.: 128508

For: DISCRIMINATION MEDIUM AND DISCRIMINATION METHOD FOR
DISCRIMINATING THE SAME

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 4, 2009 Restriction Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1 and 3-9, with traverse.

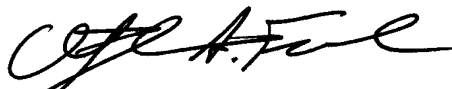
Applicants understand that once common technical features of the claims are found allowable, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-18 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in

order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 26, 2009

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